

W. J. Davenport

THE  
**CELEBRATED SPEECH,**  
OF THE HONOURABLE  
**C. J. FOX,**  
With the PROCEEDINGS of the MEETING at the  
**SHAKESPEARE TAVERN,**  
ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER, 10, 1800,  
BEING THE  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
OF HIS  
FIRST ELECTION FOR WESTMINSTER.  
WHEREIN HE SHews THE  
**IMPROPER CONDUCT OF MINISTERS,**  
IN CONTINUING  
**An Unjust War,**  
THAT HAS SPILT OUR BLOOD; SQUANDERED OUR TREASURE;  
CONTRACTED A LOAD OF NATIONAL DEBT, WE ARE UNABLE  
TO BEAR; AND REDUCED THE PEOPLE TO THEIR  
PRESENT DEPLORABLE SITUATION!!!

~~~~~  
FOURTH EDITION.  
~~~~~  
TO WHICH ARE ADDED,  
**TWO MUCH ADMIRED SONGS,**  
SUNG AT THE ABOVE MEETING  
BY A WELL-KNOWN WHIG.

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L O N D O N:

Printed by J. Davenport, 6, George's Court, St. John's Gate, for  
J. S. JORDAN, No. 166, FLEET-STREET.



ANNIVERSARY  
OF  
MR. FOX'S FIRST ELECTION,

**I**N consequence of public advertisements, a most numerous company assembled at the Shakespeare Tavern, on Friday, October 10, 1800, to celebrate the Anniversary of Mr. Fox's First Election for the city of Westminster. The house was entirely crowded by three o'clock; not a room but had a party; and the overflow in the great room was extreme. About half past four o'clock Mr. Fox entered the great room, accompanied by several Noblemen and Gentlemen of distinction.— And, after an absence of two years, it is not easy to conceive the applause with which he was received by his numerous friends, and constituents; among whom were the Lord Mayor, Lord Bessborough, Lord William Russell; Messrs. Erskine, Byng, Adair, Courtney; Alderman Skinner, &c. &c.

Mr. Fox took the Chair.

After the cloth was removed, Mr. Fox gave

The free and independent Electors of Westminster, which was drank with three times three.

Mr. Fox then gave,

Mr. Byng, and the independent Electors of Middlesex, which was likewise drank with three times three.

Mr. BYNG returned thanks to the company for the honour they had done him. He received with pride this mark of their approbation, and it should be his constant endeavour to persevere in that line of conduct which had obtained him this honour, and in his attachment to that great and respectable character, whose election they were met to celebrate. He concluded with giving,

Mr. Fox, which was drank with three times three, and the warmest enthusiasm.

Mr. Fox, after thanking the company, delivered the following INTERESTING SPEECH, with great animation :—

“ GENTLEMEN, “ Twenty years have now elapsed since I had first the honour of being elected one of the representatives of the city of Westminster. These twenty years, Gentlemen, have been full of important events, foreign and domestic. In many of the circumstances which have distinguished that interval, the part which an honest man had to act was difficult to choose and to sustain ; so difficult, indeed, that unless he had formed his conduct upon general principles, applicable to all times, and to all events, he must have been unable to guide his course in such a manner as to secure the testimony of his own mind, and the approbation of his country ; he must have been unequal to the faithful discharge of public duty, during a series of such eventful years, without a system, just, liberal, and comprehensive.

In such a system I have founded the principles on which I have to act, and the conduct I had to pursue. During these twenty years, Gentlemen, I have adhered to the principles on which the Revolution of 1688 was founded, and to what have been

been known as the Old Whig principles of England. Amidst all the trying difficulties with which I was surrounded, on so many critical occasions, it has been my good fortune to entertain those sentiments which you have sanctioned by your approbation, and to follow that line of action which has obtained the concurrence of the majority of my constituents. Even during the last three years, when I had adopted a system of retirement from public business, a system which, to many, appeared of doubtful propriety, and concerning which, even my own opinion has been the least decided; yet I have had the good fortune to concur with the Electors of Westminster, and the satisfaction to know that this part of my conduct, whatever difference of opinion might have existed as to its wisdom and policy, has never been imputed to a dereliction of my principles.—*(Loud applause)*

Gentlemen, if it may be said without too much vanity, this good fortune which has fallen to my lot to enjoy, is a lesson to public men that they ought not to trust their reputation to the fallacious test of the varying opinions of the day; to the decision of the whims and the caprices of temporising politics. Steady and lasting applause, permanent and solid support, are only to be obtained by an upright undeviating adherence to great and liberal principles of action. The foundation of that equal conduct, and that honest fame, Gentlemen, is the general principle of liberty, and of the rights of mankind. Yes, Gentlemen, I repeat it, the Rights of Mankind!—for however that word may have been employed to cover false or dangerous doctrines, *men have rights*; and he who forms his political creed, and rule of conduct upon any thing but that principle, acts upon principles that will not bear him out. In France, in Russia, or Germany,

and every country under heaven, those rights are the birthright of man, antecedent to the establishment of any particular form of Government.

It was upon those principles, Gentlemen, that we acted who thought the American war unjust and impolitic. Before I had the honour to receive that mark of confidence from the Electors of Westminster, in being chosen their representative, I had professed those sentiments, and established them as the guide of my public life. I did not hesitate to declare in Parliament, prior to that æra, in favour of America, oppressed by the mother country, and my wishes for the success of those men who were then *stigmatized as rebels*. The principles I avowed, and I thought they contributed to recommend me to the esteem and confidence of the Electors of Westminster.

In that war, as in the present, we were engaged in a contest no less expensive and bloody, than *unjust in its principle*. It was not a war for pride or aggrandizement, for honour, or for security, but a war *to gratify that party which existed then, and exists now in this country; a party that hates liberty, and would employ the arms of this nation to suppress it wherever it has diffused its blessings, or endeavours to extend its influence* ! ! !

The principles of that pernicious party did prevail for a season; they were prosecuted at the expence of millions of treasure; at the expence of many foul murders, and much indelible disgrace. But at last they were obliged to hide themselves for a time, and to yield to more generous views. The principles of liberty resumed its sway, and, for a while, the doctrines on which the Revolution was founded, regained the ascendant.

Unfortunately for the British Empire that triumph was not of long duration. It is not for me

to say how soon the principles of liberty were again eclipsed. The former *mischievous maxims resumed their dominion*; and blind must that man be, who does not perceive, that, however the two events might differ in collateral points, the present French war is founded upon the *same identical principles* which produced the American war; principles which aim at discouraging and destroying Freedom, and setting up in its stead a system of Government, founded upon *ruae power and harsh dominion*, in contradiction to the mild and elevating empire of Liberty. To this war, therefore, Gentlemen, the principles I had adopted naturally, and consistently, impelled me to give my opposition. If the American war was expensive in its prosecution; surely, it will not be denied, that this war has been more expensive still. But what was the consequence of the expence which the American war heaped upon us? It contributed ultimately to aggrandize America, and to establish her independence. If that war produced the aggrandizement of America, what has this war done? Has it not in a greater degree presented to France the opportunity of extending her territories, and augmenting her glory? Her power and her fame have increased with the malignant hostility of her foes. But here is the difference which renders the consequences in each case so unequal,—The aggrandizement of America cannot, for ages, menace the repose, or the safety of England. Not so, the effect of this war. By our enmity, we have made France at once a more bitter foe, and a more formidable rival.

The sentiment of this country has been decidedly expressed for peace; but what prospect is there of that desirable event? On my arrival in town this morning, I was informed that Ministers were

were about to give to the world a publication, to shew that they are not to blame for the failure of a negociation, of some kind, which has for sometime been going on, I might here enumerate many arguments to shew that Ministers do not wish for peace. I might insinuate, that they prefer the continuance of war. But why should I insinuate ;—I have only to relate. Since that day last January, when, after an absence of some time, I returned to Parliament, I think there cannot be a doubt entertained respecting their intentions. We were then told by persons in high office, that it was not to be wished that a former negociation should have succeeded. We were told, that though a negociation entered into by Ministers had failed ; yet it had been useful, as it contributed to bring the Nation into a more solid system of finance ! I confess, therefore, that it is with additional dismay and grief, that I hear the news of a new failure : because Ministers will consider it as a fortunate circumstance ; and that it will prove the forerunner of ANOTHER solid system of finance!!!  
(*Loud applause.*)

I know, that in January last \* it was the general opinion—not only here, but in most countries of Europe, that the French Government was sincere in the desire of peace ; and every man must perceive, that we might have concluded a treaty at that moment upon more favourable terms than the most sanguine can now hope to obtain. Whether a similar opportunity may now occur, I shall not venture to predict ; but I have no hesitation to declare it my opinion, that by the present Ministers it would *again* be lost ; and thus, after so many

\* *Vide* Mr. Fox's Speech, on the Address to his Majesty, on the 3d of Feb. 1800. Published by J. S. Jordan.

many years of the most bloody contest in which any nation was ever engaged ; we find the war no less hopeless, as to its termination, than it is undefinable in its object.

We have seen and felt the innumerable evils and calamities with which the war has already been attended. The expence alone has been enormous. In a just war, indeed, we know that Englishmen would make every sacrifice in defence of their rights. But, in proportion as they would cheerfully devote themselves for their country, it is lamentable to see our blood spilt, and our resources squandered, for the restoration of the House of Bourbon !

It is grievous to think that the resources which might have availed us in a just cause, and to repel a real danger, must be wasted for a quarrel in which we have *neither interest nor justice!* It is grievous that our last stake must be exposed to hazard, for the pretensions of a family, the irreconcileable enemies of the British name ! Can any Englishman think of these things without grief and indignation ?

I admit that the resources of this country have proved more extensive than was believed ; and that the facility of bringing them into action has been greater than could have been calculated. These, indeed, would have been grounds of triumph in a contest in which the prosperity and honour of England were truly concerned. But these are advantages only as they are used with discernment, and applied with caution. The case may be illustrated by what happens daily in the case of private persons. The facility of borrowing undoubtedly is good ; the advantages of credit are highly beneficial, if they are directed by prudence, and employed to useful ends. Yet, as some

of us may have too well experienced, that facility is extremely unfortunate if it encourages indiscreet profusion. Such has been the state of this country. The ability to obtain supplies, to call our resources into action, would have been a blessing, if our arms had been just and pious: if our efforts had been employed in defence of liberty. The same thing has proved a misfortune instead of a blessing—when it has only fed the rage of wild and extravagant enterprize; when it has been employed, not merely on idle, but in mischievous designs; not for great and liberal purposes; but for the restoration of the House of Bourbon, and against the liberties of the world!

These immense sums have been easily raised, but the effects of this extravagance are more severely felt, and will continue long to weigh heavily on the country. Not only has every man suffered a large defalcation in his income, but he is debarred from many pleasures to which he formerly had access, and all his comforts are abridged. The present high price of provisions \*, though felt most severely by the poor, affects every class in society, and produces the most lamentable effects. Upon the causes of this unprecedented rise in the price of every article of consumption I am not disposed to descant; but, without entering into minute or laboured disquisition, it must appear evident to every one that the vast addition to our national debt, and the consequent astonishing increase in the amount of the *circulating medium* †, must, of necessity, have greatly depreciated the value of money; and that the war, far from not being

\* *Vide A Plan for reducing the High Price of Bread, &c.*  
In a Letter, addressed to the Benefit Societies in Great Britain.

† *Vide Iniquity of Banking. Parts I, and II. Published by J. S. Jordan.*

being concerned with the high price of provisions, *is its principal cause*, and the grand source of that as well as all of the other evils which oppresses us. How far accidental causes may have aggravated the mischief, I profess myself unable to discuss; but I am confident that, if they have operated at all, they have operated to a very limited degree. I beg leave here to declare that, though I see little prospect of those evils being remedied; they can only be rendered more oppressive by attempts to remedy them by means of tumult and violence. I deeply lament the tumultuary meetings which lately took place in the city of London, as they could do no good; and might have been productive of the most dreadful consequences; but at the same time I exceedingly admire the manner in which they were suppressed, and think that it redounds to the eternal honor of my Right Honorable Friend who now sits near me. Mobs most formidable and alarming, incensed by provocations which are most calculated to make men savage and ungovernable, he happily quelled without violence; and proved to the world that in the most trying circumstances, coolness and steadiness will be effectual. The events which had happened, were not what he could have wished, as it would have been more pleasant for him still, if during his mayoralty, he never had occasion to call out a military force to preserve the tranquillity of the city; but they had certainly added to his glory, as he had restored order without bloodshed, without one innocent, or even one guilty man, having suffered.

These are some of the calamities produced by the war; but, great as they are, they are by no means the greatest. The constitution—our greatest boast and greatest blessing, the source of all our former prosperity and happiness—the constitution

has been injured. Compare things as they are now with what they were when I had first the honor to be chosen as your representative. That was a period by no means very favorable to public liberty; but it was the reign of freedom itself compared with the present! Consider the dreadful encroachments which have since been made on the liberty of the press; reflect on the manner in which libels were then tried, and look to the manner in which they are tried now, and you will see that, if then men were not allowed to speak their sentiments as they ought to have been, now the most slavish and intolerable silence is imposed. The change which has taken place with regard to personal liberty is still more deplorable:—twenty years ago were there numbers of innocent men confined in dungeons without hopes of release, on account of insurrections and rebellions which never did exist but in fancy? I am entitled to say that they never did exist but in the imagination of a set of men who raise such reports that they may the more easily depress the cause of freedom:—whenever the matter has been brought to an issue and fairly investigated by a jury of the country, these alarms have been proved to be groundless. It is said that the community does not suffer, and that what I complain of is trifling. What! is it of no importance that numbers of our innocent countrymen (for innocent I must ever suppose them till they are proved to be guilty), should be needlessly deprived of their liberty, and subjected to the most cruel sufferings\*? I am even supposing that they are treated with kindness, as Government professes to use them as well as their circumstances will permit,

\* *Vide An Impartial Statement of Cruelties Discovered in the Coldbath-fields Prison, by the Grand and Traverse Juries of the County of Middlesex.* Published by J. S. Jordan.

mit, yet, though they may not experience any extraordinary rigour, their privations must be great, and their situation painful in the extreme:—they are debarred from all intercourse with their friends; they are strangers to the sweets of society; they are condemned to the most *dreary solitude*. I know not the number of those unfortunate men; but there could not have been one in former times, when Englishmen were Englishmen—when the constitution was unimpaired—when the principles of liberty were understood, were esteemed, and acted upon. If the power of confining the innocent exists, the number of those confined is not very important; but this is a power which the pressure of the times never called for, and the granting of which proves that *our freedom is no more!* The most worthy member of society, our nearest relations, we ourselves, may next day share the fate of those whose hardships we lament.

From what has happened in a neighbouring country, it appears still more clearly that there is a *fixed and systematic plan for depressing the cause of liberty and, enslaving the people.* *Tumults were excited by the most unjustifiable measures, and afterwards were quelled by means of the most dreadful atrocities.* *Villages were set on fire—torture in its most horrid forms was employed to gain discoveries—and military power was freed of all controul from civil authority* \*.— Yet both in this country, and in Ireland, government had been complimented for suppressing the rebellion, though it had been suppressed by arts still more reprehensible than those which originally fomented it. That unhappy country has now, by a continuation of the same system of tyranny and

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\* *Vide The Causes of the Rebellion in Ireland Disclosed.*  
By an Irish Emigrant. Published by J. S. Jordan.

oppression, been *forced* into what is called an Union, and thus deprived of every thing dear to it as an independent state. I do not speak of the policy of the measure in the abstract, nor pronounce that in no circumstance it could have been advantageous or adviseable; but I most strongly condemn the manner in which it was brought about. By the means of a Parliament, which it was allowed, did not fairly represent them, and was utterly incapable to govern them, these people were compelled, against their decided inclination, to give up their independence, and to abandon their seperate existence. French politics have been the constant theme of ministerial declamation and abuse, but you see here, an imitation of the most reprehensible part of the conduct of the rulers of France—I allude to their practice of uniting countries to the Republic, under pretence that these countries wished to fraternise with them.

In short, Gentlemen, a most lamentable change has taken place, and no one of these principles exists which distinguished this country when first I had the honour to represent you. This change, though great, has been gradual, and may not have struck those so powerfully who are constantly mixing in the busy scenes of life, as him who lives secluded from the world, and only occasionally emerges from his retreat. The system of oppression at any rate has now reached a dreadful height, and every philosophical mind must foresee the grand object is the destruction of liberty. That mind which does not is certainly very different from mine. As the system has altered, it may be imagined by some that I should alter with it; but for that I am now too old, and I am determined to adhere to the principles of my youth.

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If the Electors of Westminster imagine that their interests would be better promoted by having another in place of their present nominal Representative (for I confess I do little more than represent them by name) I am ready to make way for him with alacrity ; but to temporise ; to fritter down constitutional principles ; to hold a lower tone than I have been accustomed to hold ; and cease to follow that line of conduct which recommended me to your favour, I am altogether unable. If I speak at all ; I must speak out those principles which have distinguished England for so many centuries. I must say, that in every country—in Austria, in Russia, in Prussia, in France, the *only legitimate Sovereign is the People*, and that only in proportion as Governments are the genuine Representatives of that Sovereign, they are legitimate, and calculated to promote the happiness of the people. I must ever stand up in defence of those principles of liberty ; of Whig principles, of those principles which brought about the Revolution of 1688, and which alone could justify it. Upon those principles the French, and not the English, were the proper persons to determine, whether the Bourbons ought to reign in France. That question being determined by them properly or improperly, it matters not ; Austria, Prussia and Great Britain, acted in the most unjustifiable manner in attempting to constrain them. *The war was unjust in its origin and unjust in its continuance*, as France has often been sincerely inclined to make peace with us. We have thus *spilt our blood, squandered our treasure, and contracted a load of national debt we are unable to bear, not in support of our independence, not in support of our commerce, not in support of our colonial possessions, not even to add to our military fame,*

*fame, but alone to DEPRESS FREEDOM and promote the CAUSE of DESPOTISM.*

I do suspect that these truths are now too old for common ears, though I may utter them without impropriety in the presence of my constituents.— The only alternative which remains for me, therefore, is to be silent, except among them, till the arrival of better times, when I shall be at liberty to speak in a manly tone, and to support the Constitution of my country. At my time of life, I cannot adopt new systems according to the fashion of the day. I know there are changes in circumstances which demand corresponding changes in practice; consistency may be pushed too far, and becomes improper, when the state of society and of public opinion has altered. But it is for young men who are entering on public life, and whose character is still to be obtained, to regulate their conduct by the fashion of the day; not for those who have passed their life in maintaining a particular system of opinions, and have already gained the esteem of their countrymen by their steadiness.

I feel the deepest gratitude to you, and to all the People of England, who honour me with their approbation;—but, I must inform you, that I still mean to seclude myself from public business. My time of action was over when those principles were extinguished on which I acted.

I have, at present, no more to say, Gentlemen, but that I will steadily adhere to the principles which have guided my past conduct. Those require that I should continue absent from Parliament; but I shall ever maintain, that the basis of all politics is *justice*;—that *the basis of all Constitutions is the SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE*:—and that from the People *alone*, Kings, Parliaments, Judges, and Magistrates, derive *all* their authority.”

On sitting down, Mr. Fox gave—

The Health of the Lord Mayor ; and the Independent Electors of the City of London ;

Which being drank, with loud applause,

The **LORD MAYOR** rose, and, in a few words, expressed his sense of the honour conferred on him by this public mark of approbation. He begged leave to assure the Meeting, that it had been his uniform endeavour, from the first moment of his coming forward in a public capacity, to the present time, to regulate his conduct by steady constitutional principles. In this line of conduct it was his firm purpose always to adhere ; and he looked forward, with confidence, to a continuance of approbation from all genuine friends of the Constitution.

Mr. Fox next gave—

A speedy Peace between Great Britain and the French Republic ;

Which was drank with the warmest testimonies of applause.

Lord **WILLIAM RUSSELL**, upon his health being drank, returned thanks to the company for the honour they had done him ; and assured them, that he should ever adhere to the principles and practices, to which he must be indebted for that portion of public favour, which was so liberally bestowed on him.

After the health of Mr. Erskine, with the Trial by Jury, had been drank, with the warmest applause, Mr. **ERSKINE** rose, and began, by returning his sincere thanks to the Meeting for the high honour they had done him, by coupling his name with the noblest and most invaluable privilege of Englishmen. When he reflected that the rights of Juries had been supported by men of talents, much superior to any which he could pretend to,

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he was sometimes unable to account for the partiality which had, at different times, been shewn him on this subject. He could only suppose, that the union of his name with this invaluable privilege arose from its falling to his lot successfully to defend some individuals, who, by their boldness in opposing tyranny, had excited the hatred of a Ministry, which, (as had been well observed by his Honourable Friend) since that period, had, without even the form of a trial, doomed to the horrors of a dungeon, many persons whose innocence might, perhaps, in a court of justice, have been as clear as that of his clients, who were acquitted in 1794. He rejoiced, in having been instrumental in the acquittal of those innocent men ; but, when he considered the general state of affairs at present ; when he considered how little effect his efforts, in behalf of freedom, had produced, he could not help lamenting the decay of public spirit ; he could not help deplored the many violations of the Constitution, which, the last few years, had exhibited !—When he reflected on the greater exertions of many other Friends of Freedom, and, in particular, on the energetic efforts of his Hon. Friend, and when he saw how ineffectual they had been, it was impossible, not to be impressed with a deep sense of public degeneracy.

He could, at this time, have wished to have been silent respecting the secession of his Hon. Friend ; but the modesty with which he had spoken of that subject, rendered it necessary to add a few words farther at present—His Hon. Friend had been blamed by many persons for this part of his public conduct : it had been represented as an unjustifiable dereliction of the duty he owed to his constituents, as well as his country. But to see that this imputation was false, it was only necessary

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to advert to the uniform line of conduct which his Hon. Friend had pursued ; it was only necessary to do this to be convinced that he had retired from the exercise of his public duties, when every effort had been tried in vain to arrest the wild progress of a desperate Ministry—to rouse the dormant energies of an infatuated people. Had he not, ere the contest with this country and France began, pointed out to his electors, (in a Letter which the public at large no doubt had perused) the evils of a war which was then about to be declared ? Had he not during every stage of this ruinous contest remonstrated with that eloquence peculiar to himself against its continuance ? Was it till after every effort had been tried ; was it till all these efforts had been ineffectual, that he retired from public labors, to the repose of domestic life ?

But even after this secession had he omitted any opportunity of coming forward where there was any probability of effectually promoting the cause he had uniformly supported ? That he had not, might be proved from many circumstances : but without adverting to these, was it not evident from the conduct he had adopted in the beginning of the last session of Parliament ? He had then made, what might be termed, his last effort in behalf of the restoration of peace.

At the end of the last campaign, when success had waited on the arms of our allies ; when hardly a single French soldier was left throughout all Italy, the Chief Consul of France had, in a manner which in the first instance left no room to doubt of his sincerity, expressed an ardent wish that friendship should be restored betwixt Great Britain and France.

—What then was the answer which our Ministers had returned ? Had they sent back an answer couched in language of conciliation—an answer such as a sincere love of peace ought to have inspired ?—No ; on the contrary, they had sent back

an answer the most violent, the most absurd, the most contemptuous perhaps ever invented. On this occasion his Hon. Friend had considered it his duty to come forward and arraign the procedure of Ministry, and never were his great talents more ably and vigorously exerted; but had this display of them any effect? Had it procured a single vote in Parliament, or had it changed the opinion of any one formerly attached to the measures of administration? It had not produced either of these effects, and therefore, with the most exact propriety, his Hon. Friend had resolved to continue in his secession till some great change of public opinions should seem to require his appearance.— Since that time no change has taken place. Even now it seems probable that Ministers were anxious to break off the negotiations of the Emperor of Germany. Even now they seemed anxious to “ creep into every corner,” to prevent pacification. Whether his Hon. Friend would ever again come forward in the exercise of his public duties must be left wholly to his own wisdom; but there was nothing in the aspect of the times which could justify a hope of his soon resuming them.

Mr. Erskine concluded by observing, that on great occasions, when there was any prospect of success, his Hon. Friend, by appearing in his place, shewed his unshaken attachment to those great principles of liberty, by which his public conduct had ever been regulated.

After Mr. Erskine finished, the following toasts were given from the chair :

Liberty all over the World.

The Memory of the Liberty of the Press.

Mr. Grattan, and the Friends of Freedom in Ireland.

In the course of the evening, Mr. ROBINSON sung the following SONGS; which, we understand, were written by him, and which were rapturously applauded :

SONG

## SONG I.

HOW chang'd are the times, and our people of late,  
When my brother John Bull has no ute for his pate ?  
A head without tongue ev'ry wise man maintains,  
Is just as absurd as a tongue without brains.

*Sing Ballinamona ora,  
No head without tongue then for me.*

Fine laws have been made, for the good of the land,  
And our heads are now placed where our heels us'd to stand,  
Topsy-turvy's the word where fair Order had birth,  
And this once land of plenty's now chang'd to a dearth.

*Sing Ballinamona, &c.  
No plenty of starving for me.*

But still it is some consolation to think,  
How little we need either victuals or drink,  
For the Minister firm in support of his laws,  
He's given to a Justice the key of our jaws.

*Sing Ballinamona, &c.  
No justice to lock jaws for me.*

When enslav'd thus the People, the Ministers then  
Send to Botany Bay all who dare to complain ;  
And Religion they mock, when we've scanty of meat,  
For they publish a Fast, when there's nothing to eat.

*Sing Ballinamona, &c.  
No mock of Religion for me.*

Those ills to prevent, when the City combine,  
And their King to address, thro' humanity join ;  
Tho' millions of People thro' poverty groan,  
The cries of the Nation are shut from the Throne.

*Sing Ballinamona, &c.  
No tricks with Petitions for me.*

But fasting and silence the mind must unlink,  
As the less we all talk—why the more we must think,  
Let us think what we will, we can never say wrong,  
While we all have the freedom of holding our tongue.

*Sing Ballinamona, &c.  
No freedom that's tongue-ty'd for me.*

Tho' our mouths they have shut, they have open'd our eyes,  
For they've filled all the land with informers and spies,  
With plots, darts, and popguns they've made the town ring,  
And all 'gainst the Life of our most gracious King.

*Sing Ballinamona, &c.  
No plots, darts, or popguns for me.*

*'Gainst*

'Gainst the will of the People long wars they've maintain'd  
Which this Land of much blood and much treasure have drain'd:  
But attempts against *Freedom* how vain are, we see—  
For **AMERICA**'s lost, and all **FRANCE** is now **FREE**!

*Sing, Ballinamona, &c.  
No wars against freedom for me.*

Those wars to prolong too, we've found out, at length,  
That we each must give up of our *Income* a tenth;  
And if, in the *past*, we the *future* can view,  
We shall find, the next year, that a tenth will not do!

*Sing Ballinamona, &c.  
No Tax upon Income for me.*

But at what they are driving I ne'er could find yet,  
Tho' in eight years they've doubl'd the NATIONAL DEBT:  
They may double and treble it over and o'er,  
*For the spirit of FREEDOM, alas! is no more.*

*Sing, Ballinamona, &c.  
O, that all felt that spirit like me!*

In their wars tho' they've fail'd—they by us should be prais'd,  
Who to keep us all snug, lofty barracks have rais'd,  
But they're built, and we're told they're not meant for a job,  
That a gentleman-soldier sha'n't mix with the mob.

*Sing Ballinamona, &c.  
No soldiers in barracks for me.*

Billy says, that his Laws, which are call'd wicked stuff,  
Were madly opposed by the vile blue and buff,  
And he swears he'll have vengeance on that wicked crew,  
For when stripped to their buffs, they'll all look mighty blue,

Sing Ballinamona, &c.

*No true blue and buff boys for him.*

Very blue must this Nation then look, sure enough,  
If all those who hate him should be stripp'd to their buff;

But here let me pause, and a wreath let us bind  
Round their brows, who are firm in the cause of mankind:—  
Here's the **MAN OF THE PEOPLE**, so honest in fame,  
That no foul-mouth'd *apostates*, can tarnish his name.

### Sing Ballinamona, &c.

*The Man of the People for me!*

## SONG II\*.

### RUNNEYMEAD:

OR, THE

### ENGLISHMAN'S TREE of LIBERTY.

FOR purposes meet, we all terms daily borrow,  
The WHIG of *to-day* is a TORY *to-morrow*:  
Names, or *nick-names*, when call'd, I regard just the same,  
For, believe me, I'm that from which WHIG took its name.

And yet I'm a *Democrat* call'd, you must know,  
By some, to our dear CONSTITUTION a FOE;  
Let them grumble or cavil at what I may be,  
*I will stand or I'll fall under LIBERTY'S TREE.*

This TREE which GREAT ALFRED first set in the Land,  
*For ages has stood*,—and *for ages may't stand!*—  
And may he who a *scion* or *branch* would invade  
*Never taste of those sweets we feel under its shade.*

Tho' its texture's so pure, 'tis beyond your belief,  
*The least breath of CORRUPTION* would shrivel each leaf;  
By attempts to *oppress* it—as *oft has been seen*—  
*'Tis surest to flourish, and shoot forth more green.*

When drooping 'twas once, certain GARD'NERS appear'd,  
With *banners* and *lances* to FREEDOM uprear'd;  
Determin'd to see it bloom forth in full pride,  
They *transplanted* it close to the THAMES' verdant side.

One branch that shot forth from the old stock they took,  
Which they dipp'd in the stream—o'er its parent they shook;  
Each sanctify'd drop was by Heaven decreed,  
*To make it fair flourish on FAM'D RUNNEYMEAD!*

\* The Publisher has been favoured with a copy of the above Song, since the publication of the former editions of this Pamphlet.

But

And those who reviv'd it, by all, we are told,  
 Rever'd it, as DRUIDS *the oak did of old*;  
 So a COMPACT they made with the LORD OF THE LAND,  
 That it there should REMAIN, and UNTOUCH'D EVER STAND.

But, in ages succeeding, this Compact was broke,  
 And the TREE, at some seasons, felt TYRANNY'S STROKE;  
 When Providence, WILLIAM, to succour it drew;—  
 REVOLUTION reviv'd it—it blossom'd anew!

But, since he departed, there plainly appear  
 Wither'd leaves 'midst the green, interspers'd here and there;  
 Yet its stamina's such, beyond question or doubt,  
 That its natural strength must soon bring it about.

May we see't in such health, as we had it from JOHN,  
 And as beauteous as when RUNNEYMEAD it stood on.  
 Come, fill me a bumper from LIBERTY'S SPRING.—  
 Here's the Friends to REFORM, CONSTITUTION, and KING!!!

Mr. Dignum sung several appropriate songs with much taste:—among others, that of “*Should danger e'er approach our Coasts, &c.*” the spirit of which seemed to be deeply felt by the company, and was consequently warmly applauded.

Mr. Fox retired amid the applause of the company about half-past eight; after which the meeting broke up, after a day spent in the utmost conviviality and harmony.

THE END.



DAVENPORT, Printer, 6, George's Court, St. John's Gate.